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FARC rebels back away from Colombia hostage release

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's FARC guerrilla group said yesterday they were indefinitely postponing the promised release of six hostages, saying military movements in the area where they were held had prompted the decision.

President Juan Manuel Santos immediately dismissed the rebels' claim that the Colombian military was to blame for the delay, saying it did not know where the six captured members of the Colombian security forces were being held.

"For God's sake, no more tricks and deceit," Santos said on his Twitter account. "Free them now."

The six -- five police officers and an army corporal -- have been held for more than a decade by the leftist FARC

(Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

In a statement posted on the group's website, the rebels said the area they had chosen for the prisoners' release "has been unjustifiably militarized by the government of Colombia, which forces us to delay its realization."

"Once the insanity that has taken over the (presidential) palace has subsided, we will make a new attempt for you to receive those who will be freed," said the statement, which was addressed to a group of mediators.

The civic group Colombians for Peace, which was supposed to have received the prisoners, urged the government to try harder to clear the way for the handover.

Dr. Hélène Garrett on Aruba fulfilling a research grant on Papiamentu



Dr. Helene Garrett

Islanders were pleased to welcome back Dr. Hélène Garrett, a doctorate in languages, who had dedicated much of her scholarly life to the study and promulgation of Papiamentu; a language that certainly a marked percentage of the world population likely does not even know exists.

Hélène was born in Curacao, raised in Aruba, and eventually settled in Canada where she earned her Masters at the University of Alberta in 2004 and then her PhD in Modern Languages and Culture by exploring the unique and fascinating language of her youth, which she refers to in the Curacao form, "Papiamentu." The consideration of mixed languages such as Papiamentu, which some language studies refuse to recognize as a formal language, but trivialize as a patois, has long been a source of contention among academics.

Hélène based her Master's thesis on an English translation of a book of haiku written in

Papiamentu by noted Curacao author Elis Juliana, and was on Aruba in December of 2008, to present a copy of it and her Master's Thesis to the national library. "Creoles are often looked down on as bastard languages, as baby talk, as 'foreigner' talk," Hélène observes. "Some even go so far as to say that the slaves, being of low IQ, could not master a full language and so they used this hybrid language. Mr. Juliana wanted to combat this. He used highly

as any other language can do."

She is now back on the island researching the tentatively named "Project: Differences in the Language and Culture of the ABC Islands," fulfilling a grant from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds. Her study entails having individuals from all walks of life and diverse ethnic backgrounds, read a set control piece, which will be scientifically studied for variations in pronunciation, emphasis, and vocal registers. Interestingly enough, when discussing the



Published works

formalized haiku developed in the 13th century imperial courts of Japan to demonstrate his own Papiamentu language; to show his own people and the world that this Creole is fully capable of expressing all emotions, and more, as much

language with islanders, she reports "Curacao people claim that those living on Aruba and Bonaire speak in a great sing-song cadence, while those from Aruba make the same claim about people from Curacao."

Continued on page 5

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Special honors for loyal visitors Ben and Karen



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special family who has been coming to Aruba for the last 42 years. Ben and Karen Benita of Northern Virginia visited Aruba for the first time on their honeymoon on the 12th of September, 1970.

Ben and Karen are still visiting the Island regularly staying at their favorite hotel the Holiday Inn Resort. Over the years they have extended their love of Aruba to many friends and relatives and specially their sons Ben and wife Deanne and Anthony and girlfriend Tricia. Anthony is the one who has been honored recently with the Ambassador of Goodwill certificate.

It was Karen who had first heard of Aruba back in her days working in the airline industry. When Ben and Karen were married their honeymoon was booked for Barbados, however on a friend's suggestion the honeymooners decided to come to Aruba, an island that has not been well known for a lot of people in those years.

Continued on page 3

The Business community alarmed about crime increase

ORANJESTAD -- ATIA, the organization that represents the business community with a sizeable membership role of the business community on the island, has expressed their concern over the number of crimes taking place on the island lately. Last weekend another incident took place involving brute force and violence at an internationally recognized establishment on the island.

In the past weeks the business community witnessed vandalism and holdups, despite the presence of security cameras and security guards. The business community, according to President of ATIA, Mr. Ronald Van Trigt, is screaming for a solution for the avalanche of holdups, joyriding, attacks on citizens and for the general feeling of insecurity recently engulfing the island.

The cost of security and other protective measures in the business community is constantly rising, while there are businesses unable to carry these kind of expenses. The impact of these incidents is severe and frustrating. What's more, according to Van Trigt, these incidents are beginning to spread to our visitors!

In the past ATIA did make a serious appeal to our leaders to implement some type of plan of action to curtail the growing

insecurity on the island.

ATIA is aware that in the upcoming National Social Dialogue the issue of security will be on the agenda. However, they consider this matter one of urgency to stop the daily crime incidents. Commerce insists on a secure environment to be able to effectively develop their investments and to secure their property and employees. Hence, they insist that this matter must be dealt with immediately. We must re-establish the security and safety we've always known on this island.

ATIA is prepared to lend a helping hand in discussing this matter, in coming up with ideas to finding a solution. They are insisting that something be done immediately. The business community can not sit by any longer and tolerate this situation. According to ATIA, every sector needs to express their concerns for what is a national problem affecting all of us in one way or other.

Since its founding days back in 1945 ATIA's primary goal is to serve the interests of their growing membership. Ronald van Trigt, President since 2010, Joyce Bartels-Daal Executive Director, and the rest of the Board definitely want to see immediate action from our leaders regarding this very serious dilemma in our community today.

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Significant changes in the law for businesses expected

ORANJESTAD -- Last December the Aruban Parliament approved several changes in the law with respect to important obligations for many businesses. One of the changes is that, in the future the names of shareholders of NV's (anonymous entities) must be declared. This means that anonymous shares may not be emitted unless specifically assigned to an identified person. Another change is that, effective next year 2013, annual business financial statements must be submitted to the Chamber of Commerce.

In a meeting held last week at the Chamber of Commerce, these new rules were explained in detail by Mrs. Esther

Spaans. Mrs. Spaans is a jurist whose speciality is legislation. She explained that the changes in the business laws are in keeping with directives from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF is an organization to which a large number of countries, including Aruba, are affiliated. The goal of FATF, according to Mrs. Spaans, is to help countries with their financial management with a focus on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

FATF has published a list of almost 50 recommendations to help countries optimize their rules and laws. Aruba has been working hard for a number of years on a second Civil Code,

which has to do, for the most part, with the law of civil rights. In view of the fact that this Code is not ready as yet, FATF has advised Aruba to begin by implementing certain legal changes in our existing legislation. The changes will apply to NV's (Anonymous Entities), Free Entities of Aruba (AVV's) and Entities with limited responsibility (VBA's).

From now on, all shares must be emitted in name of an identifiable individual. Anonymous shares are no longer allowed. Before a share is emitted, the identity of a shareholder must be proven via an official passport, or other legal document.

Continued on page 4

Loyal visitors Ben and Karen

Continued from page 2

The minute Ben and Karen arrived on Aruba, they fell completely in love. Nowadays Ben and Karen are still visiting the island together with their family, who are also big fans of Aruba. They have so many good friends here on the island and they love to go to the places where the locals go, like local restaurants and bars to meet their friends like "El Prove" Martin of Carambola.

The Benita's also enjoy the perfect weather very much at the Aruban beaches that makes them forget about the cold and the snow back home. At their home in Northern Virginia Ben and Karen proudly display their love for Aruba by flying

the Aruban Flag in their backyard along with the American Flag. Ben tells us that the flags fly together with honor 24 hours a day, and during the evening they are illuminated for better viewing.

The certificates and presents were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel from the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Jahaira Janga and John de Cuba from the Holiday Inn Beach Resort.

Ben and Karen, it is an honor and pleasure for the Aruba Tourism Authority to have people like you and your family for happily returning to Aruba year after year.



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Significant changes in the law...

Continued from page 3

The business in question must register the names of shareholders in the so-called Shareholders Registry together with a copy of the identification of each shareholder. The business will be required to indicate the type of shares and what are the rights of the shareholder.

The Board of businesses/companies will be responsible for the registry of shareholders and must deposit a copy of said registry at the Chamber of Commerce. Esther Spaans explained that the changes would take effect as of the 1st of February. Spaans indicated that "...businesses will have three years to change their anonymous shares into shares by name. Any business with anonymous shares after the three years period, while they may still be shareholders, they will forfeit any and all rights of said shares. This means that they will have no voting rights, nor rights to dividends."

Annual financial Statements:

An other change to be implemented next year is the obligation to submit annual financial statements to the Chamber of Commerce. Within 8 months after the fiscal year the annual statement must be prepared and approved. This must consist of at least a balance statement, profit and loss statement and an explanation of these documents. Within 8 days said statement must be submit-

ted to the Chamber affixed with the signatures of all members of the Board and commissioners.

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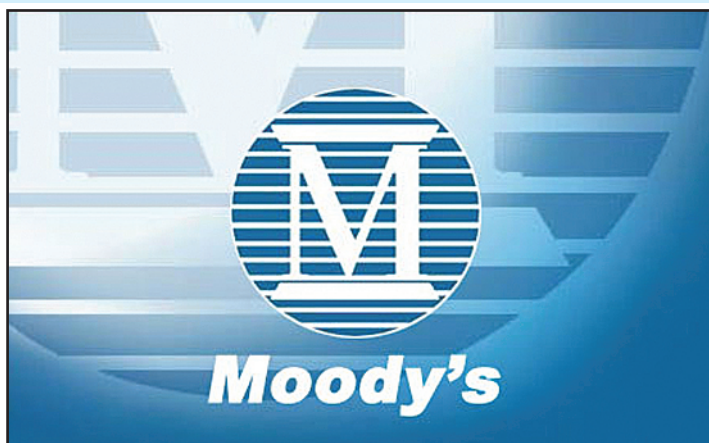
Upon the submission of the above named documents, these will be deposited into a separate register at the Chamber of Commerce. The Secretary of the Chamber will be charged with the responsibility to guarantee the privacy of these documents. These documents may be seen exclusively by officials of organizations that have legal supervision, such as the Central Bank and the Ministry of Public Order. Interim Secretary of the Chamber, Leo Maduro ex-

plained that the Chamber will implement a specific protocol for this inspection. The Board of the Chamber will not have access to these documents. In response to queries from those present at this meeting, Leo Maduro assured all that employees of the Chamber are obliged to maintain the secrecy of said information, and that the Chamber has a very hard stance on this matter. Maduro indicated that only a very small number of employees will be privy to these documents and that the Chamber will act very cautiously. The Chamber will guarantee their privacy and confidentiality.

Moody's places Baa3 rating of Aruba Airport Authority on Watchlist for possible upgrade

ORANJESTAD – Moody's Investors Service has placed the rating for Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) on Watch list for possible upgrade.

The Watch list action reflects positive financial metrics, the strong management team, rising enplanement levels since 2009 and relative stability of enplanements throughout the economic recession. Additional strength comes from the relatively stable economy and institutional framework in Aruba.



The evaluation focuses on the strength of the authority's

Learn what are the 5 top items to bring down the cost water & electricity



The Aruba water distilling and electricity company, WEB NV, continues their active "Together We Can Save" campaign in our barrios. While our utility companies are doing everything possible to produce energy in the most efficient manner possible, a very important aspect is the part that each client plays to reduce their own monthly cost.

In an effort to help the client to reduce his consumption, the team of the "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" is providing the community with advise concerning the 5 top articles that each home need to reduce their consumption of water and electricity. With respect to water, they advise that you use a "perlator" at each faucet, especially at those most used. Then, install a "Fill Valve" in the toilet tank which will help control the water which fills up in the tank and also avoid leakage.

For electricity they recommend that you change your light bulbs for the 15 watt compact energy saving light bulbs, or for the LED 4 watt bulbs. They also advise that you consider using power strips which will allow you to plug in several electrical appa-

ratus so that when they are not in use, it is much easier to turn off the switch and save energy.

With respect to airconditioners and other apparatus which draws a lot of electricity, they advise their clients to consider investing in "inverter" type models of airconditioners. Nowadays you can purchase "inverter" type refrigerators and freezers which are significantly less expensive to operate.

The "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" team also has flyers illustrating other products that can be purchased to help reduce the consumption of water and electricity. These products are very simple and easy to install and can be purchased for very reasonable prices. Everyone should take advantage of this opportunity to get this information to help reduce their cost of energy.

The Team expects everyone to heed the call to become more proactive and get the necessary information. Call 525-4200 for an appointment today and join the large group of people who have already experienced the satisfying benefits of reduced water and electricity bills.

characteristics of the Government of Aruba, in particular the stable economy and institutional framework, are sufficient to allow AAA's rating to be repositioned at a higher level.

"We are extremely happy with what it seems to be, when the upgrade will be effected, the specific appreciation for the financial performance and the strength of management", said AAA's CEO Peter Steinmetz.

You can read the complete report on www.moody's.com

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Dr. Hélène Garrett...

Continued from page 1



Once I get the samples into the machine and can really analyze the data, perhaps we will put that question to rest."

Hélène is dividing the six weeks for her study between the three islands, and departs on Saturday for Bonaire, for the first time in her life, despite having been born and grown up in the region; she is quite looking forward to it and finally having the opportunity to make the comparison first hand. There are distinct differences between spoken and written Papiamentu on Aruba and Curacao; the first demonstrates lexicon with distinctly greater influences of Spanish, and the Curacao form more strongly deploys phonetics, which is particularly noticeable when written.

Last year, she was invited to speak at a gathering in Granada, the 14th Annual Eastern Caribbean Cultures Conference, which focused on "The Islands in Between: Language, Literature and Culture of the Eastern Caribbean." She was selected by a blind process, where scholars are invited to propose a subject and one page abstract, but their names and origin are kept secret during the selection process, so they are invited only on the merits of their presentation. Hélène has also been a contributing author to a dozen books on island language and culture, aside from her solo publication of haiku by Juliana, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

by Rosalie Klein

WeatherBug announces Aruba Tourism Authority as sponsor of New Travel Section on WeatherBug.com

GERMANTOWN --Earth NetworksSM, the owner of WeatherBug products and services and operator of the largest weather observing and lightning network, proudly announces the Aruba Tourism Authority as the first sponsor of the new Travel Section for trip planners and travelers on WeatherBug.com. A respected provider of severe weather alerts and neighborhood-level local weather information to millions around the world, WeatherBug is one of the most

trusted sources on the web for local weather information, forecasts and early weather warnings.

"WeatherBug is thrilled to be working with the Aruba Tourism Authority as the first sponsor to be showcased on our new Travel Section"

The sponsorship on WeatherBug.com is designed to raise awareness of Aruba as an ideal vacation destination located on the outside fringes of the hurricane belt, with year-round cooling trade winds and

average annual temperatures of 82 Fahrenheit and less than 20 inches of rainfall. As part of the sponsorship, Aruba.com content, video and supportive messaging are fully integrated into the Travel Section with additional messaging throughout the WeatherBug website. The messaging is carried over to the WeatherBug desktop application, where Aruba.com is featured with its own custom BrandWrap Ad.

The Travel Section sponsorship is part of the "Find

Your Happy Place" campaign from the Aruba Tourism Authority. The sponsorship and digital media buy was strategically planned and executed by Deutsch on behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

"WeatherBug is thrilled to be working with the Aruba Tourism Authority as the first sponsor to be showcased on our new Travel Section," says Michael Lombardi, Vice President of Advertising Sales and Marketing for the WeatherBug brand of Earth Networks.

"Through the use of varied and high-impact media on the WeatherBug website and desktop app, we are helping the Aruba Tourism Authority raise mass awareness as well as reach target consumers across the U.S. who are actively seeking weather information during the winter timeframe when most Americans dream of escaping to a sunny tropical environment like the One Happy Island of Aruba."

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Romney says he's 'not concerned about the very poor'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican Mitt Romney said yesterday he was seeking to be president to help struggling middle-class Americans, but he was "not concerned about the very poor" who have safety nets to help them.

In comments sure to trigger a firestorm, the multi-millionaire businessman who acknowledged an income of \$20 million in 2010, told CNN: "I'm in this race because I care about Americans.

"I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it. I'm not concerned about the very rich, they're doing just fine.

"I'm concerned about the very heart of America, the 90-95 percent of Americans who right now are struggling and

I'll continue to take that message across the nation."

He was speaking fresh from his victory in the Florida primary in which he trounced rival Newt Gingrich as they both seek to be the Republican nominee to challenge Democratic President Barack Obama in November elections.

Despite having recaptured the frontrunner seat in the race, doubts still remain over Romney's conservative credentials amid accusations that he has failed to connect with many struggling Americans.

CNN reported that after his remarks, Romney sought out correspondents flying on his campaign plane yesterday to try to clarify what will likely be seen as incendiary comments.

He argued that while there

were programs in place to help the very poor in America, middle-class Americans who have lost their jobs and are hurting amid the struggling economy had no such safety nets.

But Romney has already been accused of being out of touch with the economic concerns of the average voter.

On the eve of the New Hampshire primary in January, Romney said, "I like being able to fire people who provide services to me" -- an ill-advised remark which was seized upon by opponents as evidence of being callous.

In reality, the remark was taken out of context, as Romney was trying to say that he wanted Americans to be able to switch insurance companies if they were unhappy with their service.

US First Lady promoting healthy food



Inglewood -- AFP photo shopws US First Lady Michelle Obama (R) and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa speaking in Inglewood, California yesterday, where she arrived to help showcase tangible changes being made by Northgate Gonzales Markets that will use FreshWorks financing to further prioritize healthy food retailing as they expand, create jobs, and nourish communities that otherwise lacked access to fresh affordable food. Mrs. Obama says these types of initiatives are helping to make a dent in the high rate of obesity and weight-related illnesses that plague inner cities. Mr s. Obama visited the site of Northgate Gonzales Markets' future store in Inglewood yesterday to showcase efforts being made to draw grocers to low-income neighborhoods. Obama, who is on the second day of her two-day visit to the Los Angeles area, is making the stop as part of her "Let's Move!" campaign to boost healthy food and fitness

Tiny surveillance blimp to keep watch over Rio carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - A small remote-controlled blimp fitted with a camera will keep watch over street parties in the lead-up to the Carnival parades at Rio's famed Sambadrome late this month, a city official said yesterday.

Antonio Pedro Figueira de Mello, Rio's tourism secretary, told reporters that the blimp, 10 meters long and 2.6 meters wide, would from today take high-resolution pictures that will help police deal with any street disturbances.

Hundreds of thousands of revelers traditionally join the "blocos," the free neighborhood parties where they dance the samba and slurp down beer in the lead-up to the procession of sumptuous floats and scantily dressed women at the Sambadrome.

But the rowdy and noisy crowds also create massive traffic jams, leave behind piles of trash and even urinate in the streets.

This year, an estimated 800,000 people are expected to take part in the 151 "blocos" from today to February 16, ahead of the Sambadrome ex-

travaganza scheduled for February 19 and 20. More than 8,000 chemical toilets will be set up for the revelers.

The first major test will come Saturday when 50,000 people are expected to attend the Banda de Ipanema bloco, famous for its gay-friendly atmosphere.

Egypt football violence kills 73

CAIRO (AFP) - At least 73 people were killed yesterday in fan violence after a football match in the city of Port Said, the health ministry said, as Egypt struggled with a wave of incidents linked to poor security.

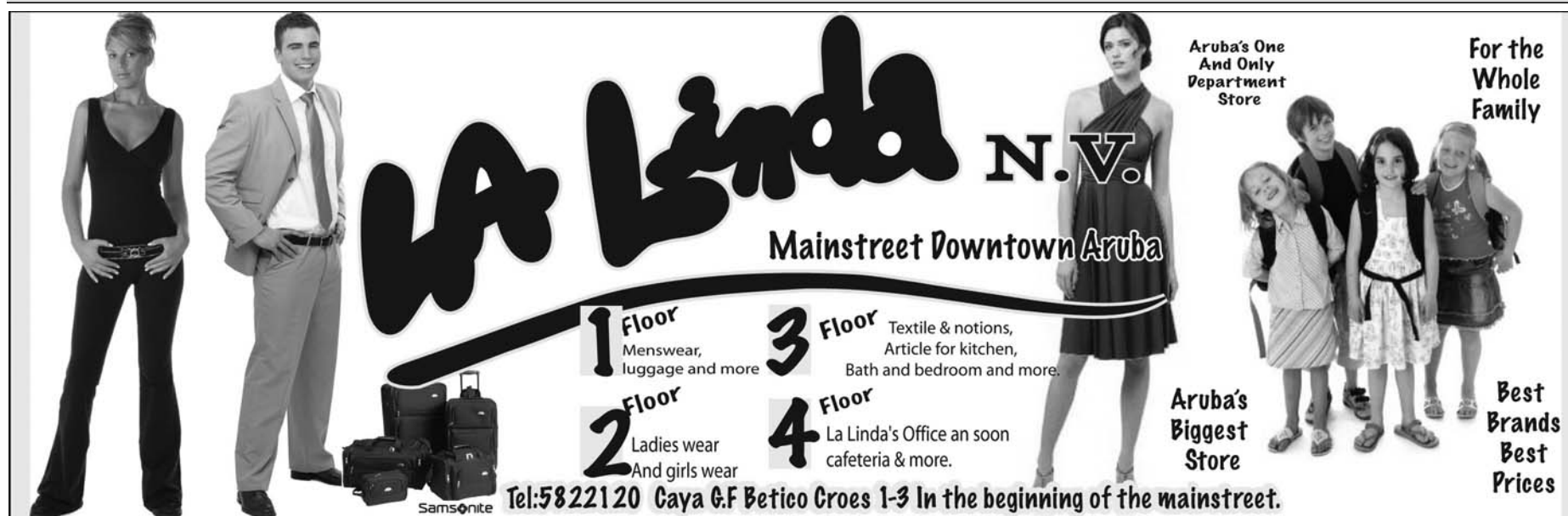
"The death toll, as a result of the unrest after the match between Al-Ahly and Al-

Masri, has reached 73," deputy health minister Helmy al-Efni said.

A security official said the violence erupted as soon as the referee blew the final whistle. Fans of Al-Masri, which beat Al-Ahly 3-0, invaded the pitch and began to throw rocks, bottles and fireworks at the Al-Ahly fans



ISRAEL, Tel Aviv : Bernard Vaussion (R), Head Chef of the Elysee Palace in France prepare for a gala dinner in Tel Aviv on February 1, 2012. The Club "Chef des Chef" (CCC) invited chefs from around the world to prepare the "Cooking for Peace" gala dinner and the proceeds will be donated to the Peres Center for Peace in support of their youth programs. (AFP PHOTO)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mexico police take refuge from Juarez drug gangs

CIUDAD JUAREZ (AFP) - Some 2,000 police are hunkering down in hotels in Mexico's most violent city of Ciudad Juarez after a drug gang threatened to kill an officer per day if their chief refused to resign.

Eleven police officers, including four commanders, have already been killed in the city across from El Paso, Texas, since the start of the year.

The city's mayor this week ordered police to use several local hotels as temporary barracks to protect themselves from attacks on the way home from work in the city at the heart of Mexican drug violence that has left 50,000 dead in five years.

Mayor Hector Murguía said yesterday that they would stay in hotels for at least three months, with 1.5 million dollars put aside to pay for it.

Murguía stood by his police chief, Julian Leyzaola, a controversial former soldier who has also been asked to resign by human rights groups for his alleged heavy-handed policing.

"The chances that he

(Leyzaola) resigns or that they force him to resign are zero percent," the mayor told journalists.

At the entrance to the Rio motel, on Las Torres avenue, several patrols stand guard to protect access to the improvised barracks, as others monitor vehicles passing by.

Last week, several banners signed by the "New Cartel of Juarez" appeared around the city of 1.3 million, to announce the killing of a police officer each day as long as Leyzaola stayed in charge of the local police.

Some of the messages also accused the police chief of protecting another group, "New Generation," allied to powerful Sinaloa drug cartel of fugitive billionaire Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

According to the mayor, the threats only showed how concerned the drug gangs were in the face of Leyzaola.

Murders fell to less than 2,000 in the city in 2011 -- the year Leyzaola took control -- from 3,100 in 2010. Key leaders of city gangs like the "Aztecas" were also captured.

Deep freeze claims more lives in Europe

WARSAW (AFP) - Europe shivered in some of the coldest temperatures seen in decades yesterday as the death toll topped 80 and countries battled to clear snow from roads and railways.

At least 28 people froze to death overnight in eastern and central Europe, while countries further west and south began to feel the effects of a cold front spreading from Siberia.

Snow hit Italy, which struggled to clear motorways and railways after heavy falls, and the French Mediterranean island of Corsica.

In the Ukraine, officials said 13 people had died of hypothermia over the past 24 hours, bringing the overall toll there to 43 over the past six days.

Most were homeless people who froze to death on the streets, but seven died in their homes and more than 800 sought medical help for frostbite and hypothermia as temperatures plunged to minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit) in some regions.

Poland reported five people found dead overnight, bringing the overall toll to 20 since temperatures plummeted there on Friday.

In Slovakia, two people died as temperatures hit minus 24C (minus 4F), the daily newspaper SME reported.

And in the neighbouring Czech Republic a 47-year-old homeless man was found frozen to death in the eastern city of Karvina, where the mercury has dipped to minus 29C (minus 20F).

In Romania, six people died over the past 24 hours, bringing the toll to 14 over the past six days.

In Bulgaria, two people died in the coldest weather in a century in some parts of the country, bringing the overall toll to 10.

Guntars Grauss, director of Latvia's state medical centre,



Bocognano: A motorist drives up the Vizzavona mountain pass in his car on February 1, 2012 in Bocognano, as a cold snap is striking France. In the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, most mountain passes were closed by snow and ice, while heavy trucks were banned from motorways in southern France because of the snow, officials said. (AFP PHOTO)

told the Delfi news portal that five men and two women had died in the final week of January when temperatures were at their lowest. homes got out of control.

In Italy snow caused traffic chaos in the northern cities of Bologna and Milan and trucks were banned from the roads in the central regions of Marche, Tuscany and Umbria until further notice.

As bad weather halted all work around the beached cruise liner Costa Concordia, forecasters predicted more snow and colder temperatures in the days ahead, with a low of minus 20C (minus 4F) in the Alps.

In France, five men serving

in the French Foreign Legion were buried by an avalanche while training in the Alps.

Meanwhile, temperatures dipped to between minus 18C (minus 0.4F) and minus 25C (minus 13F) in parts of the north of the country.

In Corsica, most mountain passes were closed by heavy snow and power cuts hit some 60,000 homes in the island and neighbouring French mainland.

But the Dutch were putting on their skates, staging the first marathon of the season on natural ice and hoping their canals would be sufficiently frozen to hold a classic 200-kilometre (125-mile race) for the first time since 1997.



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Health & Living

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here in Aruba in November 2011 and Art of Breathing courses are now being held in Aruba for all age groups including children, youth and adults. Mr. Dushyant is settled in U.K. and has been teaching Art of Living courses for the last 11 years. Mr. Dushyant was once addicted to alcohol and smoking with a very angry personality and was transformed completely through these courses and has since dedicated his life to the Foundation to bring this knowledge to people across the world.

In between 2 courses during

the day, Mr. Dushyant had the pleasure of meeting with our Prime Minister Mr. Mike Eman and also took the initiative to give a very interesting seminar to diverse groups such as social workers engaged in Aruban community, members of Indian community of Aruba and a select group of community members involving various professions bankers, educators, lawyers, insurance persons, retailers, wholesalers and Government officers. Also represented in the seminar were invited members of different service clubs in Aruba. As a larger contribution to the Caribbean Islands, Art of Living is also offering diverse workshops for prisoners, drug addicts, including courses for Police, corporate companies, medical centres, women empowerment programs, etc. The Art of Living programs have already benefited more than 300 million people across the world from all walks of life.

STD prevention

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are infections acquired by sexual contact. You can get an STD by having unprotected sex with a partner who's infected. You can't always tell if someone is infected, however, because many STDs cause no symptoms, at least at first. In fact, a person may have an STD without knowing it.

That's why you have to be vigilant about STD prevention. If you're sexually active, your best bet for STD prevention is to have just one sex partner who doesn't have any STDs and who has sex only with you. If you're not in an exclusive relationship, you can still protect yourself by learning about and consistently practicing STD prevention, such as using condoms.

France urges Europe-wide controls after implant scandal

PARIS (AFP) - France vowed Wednesday to strengthen the regulation and monitoring of prosthetics and called for Europe-wide controls after a defective breast implant case sparked a global health scare.

More than 400,000 women around the world are thought to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which shut in 2010 after it was found to have used substandard, industrial-grade silicone gel.

Separately, Italy's association of plastic surgeons filed a lawsuit against the French manufacturer and Germany's TÜV Rheinland, a company that certified that the implants conformed to European safety rules.

French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand said inspections of manufacturers of medical devices will be reinforced following the incident, with the number of inspectors increased and the inspections "more numerous and unannounced".

Bertrand also said that European Union rules on regulating and monitoring medical devices "must be radically overhauled".

In the report, French health authorities urged stronger national and European regulation and monitoring of medical devices.

The report also called for AFSSAPS to increase its inspections, with both regular and surprise visits. Inspections for some devices should be carried out annually and include taking samples for analysis, it said.

There should also be easier ways to report defective devices, it said.

An AFSSAPS inspector discovered PIP's use of the non-standard silicone in March 2010 and ordered its products banned, but only after the company had already used the gel in hundreds of thousands of implants.

The report noted that AFSSAPS did not carry out any inspections at PIP between 2001 and 2010.

It said that reports of ruptured PIP implants prior to 2009 "were not of a sufficient number to signal a heightened risk compared to other suppliers".

A French court last week charged the company's founder, 72-year-old Jean-Claude Mas, with causing "involuntary injuries" and the courts are also pursuing a mass fraud investigation.

Fears over PIP implants spread across the world late last year after French health authorities advised 30,000 women to have them removed because of an increased risk of rupture.

Between 400,000 and 500,000 women in 65 countries are believed to have implants from PIP, once the world's third-largest silicone implant producer.

A number of countries, including Germany and the Czech Republic, followed France in recommending that the implants be removed as a precaution, but Britain has said it will not follow suit. At least 13 countries in Europe and Latin America have also urged women to have a check-up.



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Oldest known croc had a shield-like head: study

(AFP) - The oldest known species of crocodile had an armor-plated head and a body half the length of a subway car, according to research released Tuesday by US scientists who identified the now-extinct creature.

Nicknamed "Shieldcroc" for its impressive head plate, the aquatic reptile swam in the waters of Africa some 95 million years ago and is the newest discovery of an ancient

crocodile species, said the study in the journal PLoS ONE.

University of Missouri anatomy professor Casey Holliday identified the croc, *Aegisuchus witmeri*, by studying a fossilized partial skull specimen that was first discovered in Morocco.

The croc's shield was likely used as a way to intimidate foes, attract mates and even control its head temperature, researchers said.

Sci-Tech

'Atlantis' volcano gives tips for mega-eruptions

PARIS-(AFP) - Around 1630 BC, a super-volcano blew apart the Aegean island of Santorini, an event so violent that some theorists say it nurtured the legend of Atlantis.

More than three and a half millennia later, the big blast is yielding forensic clues which help the search to predict future cataclysmic eruptions, scientists said on Wednesday.

Bigger than the destruction of Indonesia's Krakatoa in 1883, the Santorini event was a so-called caldera eruption, a kind that happens mercifully only at intervals of tens of thousands of years, sometimes far more.

The chamber of a volcano becomes progressively filled with magma but lacks vents from which to discharge this dangerous buildup of gas and

molten rock.

The pressure cooker culminates in catastrophe, ripping off the top of the volcano and leaving a depression called a caldera, the Spanish word for cauldron.

One of the great unknowns is when a caldera-type episode is in the offing.

That question is a particular concern for Yellowstone Park in Wyoming, a truly massive volcano classified as "high-threat" by the US Geological Survey (USGS).

Vulcanologists led by French-based Timothy Druitt scrutinised crystals of a mineral called feldspar that had been ejected from the Santorini eruption.

They looked for traces of magnesium, strontium and titanium, deposited in waves over thousands of years by the slowly advancing magma. The chemicals, they found, were a telltale of events over time.

From these signatures, the picture that emerges is of final, fatal spurts of magma injection which happened in the last decades -- maybe even just the final months -- before the great eruption.

The study, reported in the journal *Nature*, chimes with other research that suggests magma reservoirs in caldera volcanoes undergo a "pul-

satory" buildup which probably accelerate before eruption.

If so, the findings are useful for vulcanologists poring over Yellowstone and other hotspots. They could detect such pulses using satellite technology, which records ground deformation over time as the volcano bulges, and ground-motion sensors.

But only close familiarity helps build a "pulse" model which gives a good idea of when a volcano is about to blow its lid.

"Long-term monitoring of large, dormant caldera systems, even in remote parts of the world, is essential if late-stage growth spurts of shallow magma reservoirs are to be detected well in advance of caldera-forming eruptions," says the paper.

Also called the Minoan Eruption, the Santorini event spewed out up to 60 cubic kilometres (14.4 cubic miles) of material, causing ash clouds that devastated Bronze Age civilisations in the Aegean.

Some theorists say the event inspired Plato's tale, written some 1,300 years later, of a circular island-empire inhabited by people of great culture and wealth, that sank to the depths of the sea in a single day and night of earthquakes and floods.

Facebook looks to friend Wall Street with huge IPO

(AFP) - Facebook is poised to find out just how much Wall Street likes the world's number one social network.

Facebook is expected to file paperwork towards a stock market launch this week, possibly as early as Wednesday, seeking to raise up to \$10 billion on the advertising riches flowing from the personal data of its 800 million users.

The flotation would be the largest ever by a technology company, eclipsing the \$1.9 billion raised by Internet search giant Google when it went public in 2004 at a valuation of \$23 billion.

The Wall Street Journal broke the news of Facebook's impending initial public offering (IPO) last week, saying it planned to raise \$10 billion, which would value the firm at between \$75 billion and \$100 billion.

The \$10 billion target had been halved to a more conservative \$5 billion in reports emerging late Tuesday in The

New York Times and International Financing Review.

The publications stressed, however, that \$5 billion was only a preliminary fund-raising target and could always be raised after gauging investor interest in the Palo Alto, California-based company.

With 800 million members and more joining daily since its launch in 2004, Facebook is the leading social network in all but seven countries, notably Russia, where local rivals are preferred, and China, where it is banned.

The initial IPO filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission was not expected to specify how many shares were being offered or their list price.

It would also not put a valuation on the company nor identify which exchange Facebook shares would be traded on -- the Nasdaq stock market or the New York Stock Exchange.

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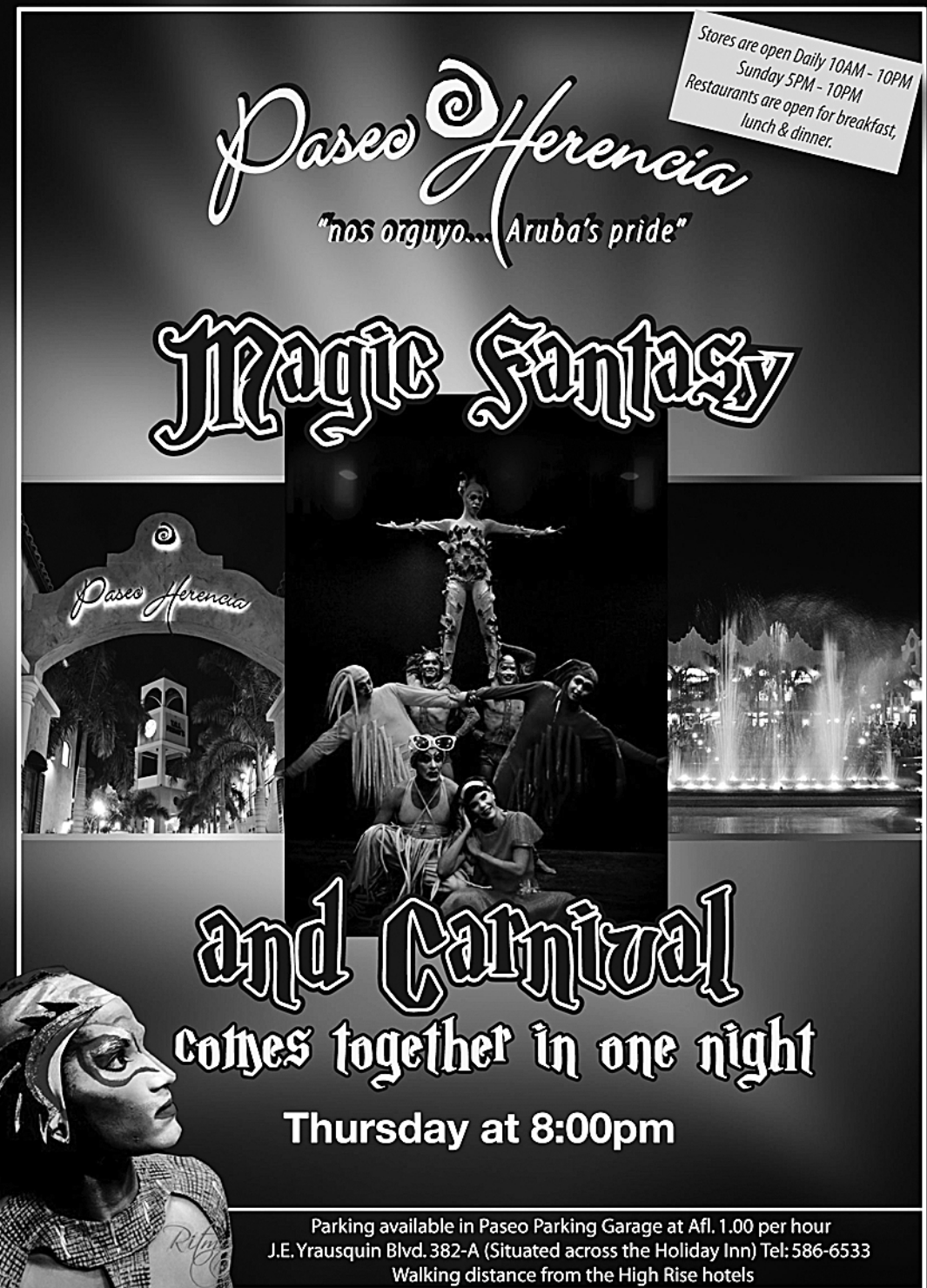
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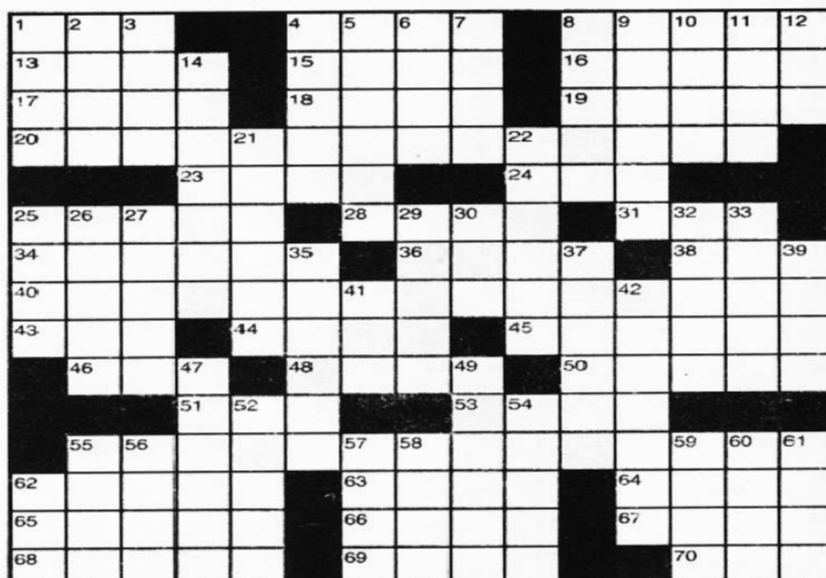
ACROSS

1. Glove compartment item
4. Stocking mishap
8. Muttered comment
13. She was, to Caesar
15. Camouflage
16. Grief
17. Inter ____
18. Double-curved molding
19. Not natural
20. "Treasure Island" character
23. Sudden wind
24. Match a bet
25. Adam of "Chicago Hope"
28. OT king
31. Place for Daniel
34. Court sport
36. The Chipmunks, e.g.
38. Red, to Hopalong
40. Jason's quest
43. Vocal support
44. Dig site, often
45. Sea ducks
46. Welby and Kildare: abbr.
48. Vintage autos
50. Workbench grippers
51. Little troublemaker
53. Swap ____
55. Swag sites
62. Pillars
63. Former Irani leader
64. Estimate the value of
65. Like neon
66. Architect Saarinen
67. Position to fill

68. Events that are often black-tie
69. X and gamma
70. Some Scrabble tiles

DOWN

1. ____ ticket
2. Contemporary of Joan, Bob, and Donovan
3. Cramp
4. Drives away
5. "Boogie ____"
6. Arabian seaport
7. Mild exclamations
8. Allan ____ (Sherwood Forest denizen)
9. Finished a puzzle
10. "And ____ down alone" (A.E. Housman)
11. Person of action
12. Direction suffix
14. ____ along (accompanying)
21. Dick Tracy's adopted son
22. "What ____" (George Harrison hit)
25. Barrister: abbr.
26. Do a tailor's job again
27. Make dough
29. "____ clock scholar"
30. Footed vase
32. Dueling weapons
33. Pearly substance
35. Drinks noisily
37. First name in Dickensian waifs
39. Devoid of: suffix
41. Expire
42. Diaskeuasts
47. ____ Nevada
49. Like dirty glass
52. Cutty Sark poles
54. Cultural characteristics
55. Turner of "Tommy"
56. Bobbin
57. ____-friendly
58. Actress Caroline of "Sabrina"
59. Farewell, to Caesar
60. 007's alma mater
61. Coteries
62. ____ Latin

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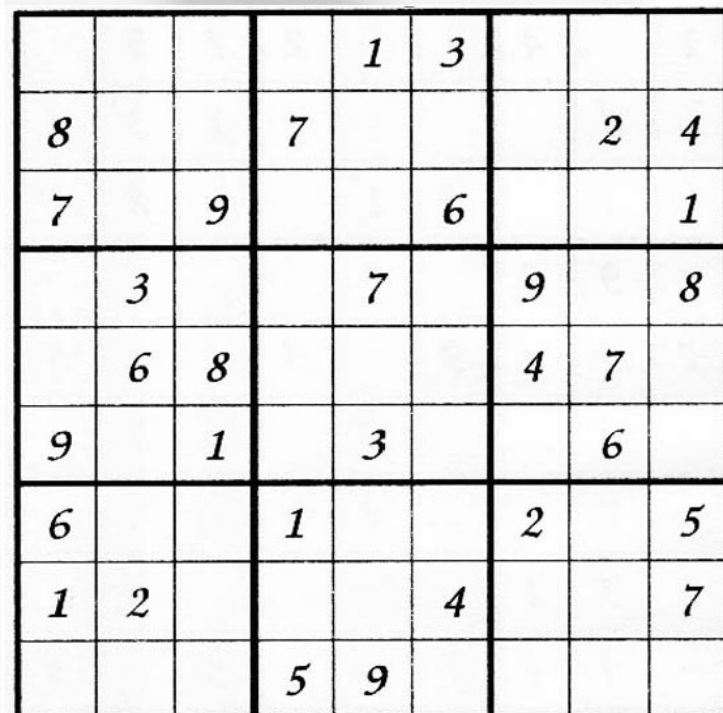
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	8	1	2	6	5	3	4	7
4	6	8	7	9	5	3	2	1
5	3	2	4	8	1	7	6	9
2	9	5	8	3	7	1	4	6
3	1	7	1	2	6	8	9	5
8	1	6	5	3	4	9	7	2
1	8	9	7	2	6	5	3	4
7	2	9	6	5	3	4	1	8
6	5	3	4	1	8	9	7	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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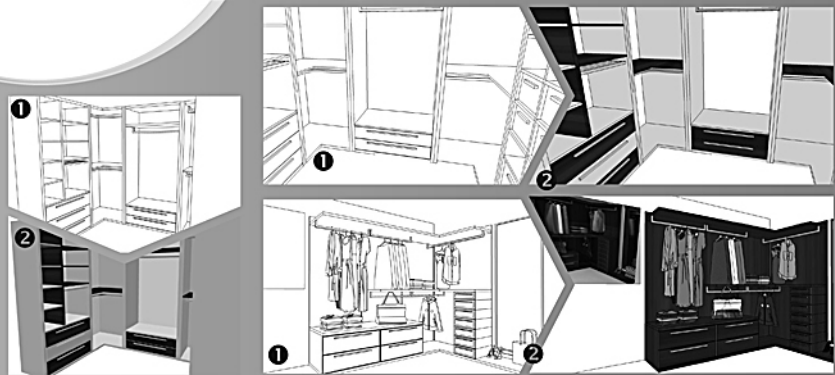
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Bankrupt American Airlines to slash staff, costs

NEW YORK (AFP) - American Airlines said yesterday it needed to cut costs by 20 percent to stay afloat, as it met with union representatives to detail a plan for layoffs that reports said would total 13,000 workers.

"All workgroups will have total costs reduced by 20 percent, including management," Tom Horton, chief executive of American parent AMR Corporation, said in a letter to employees yesterday.

"While the savings from each work group will be achieved somewhat differently, each will experience the same percentage reduction."



Cuts of 13,000 workers, reported by several media outlets immediately following the management-union meeting, would amount to about 15 percent of the company's workforce.

"Our major competitors

have used the restructuring process to overhaul their companies and become more competitive in every aspect of their business," he said.

"Now it is time for American to move forward on a decisive path. We are going to use the restructuring process to make the necessary changes to meet our challenges head on and capitalize fully on the solid foundation we've put in place."

He said the airline needed to cut \$1.25 billion a year in employee-related costs.

In exchange he offered employees a profit sharing plan that would pay out 15 percent of all pre-tax income.

WTO approves two-year trade waiver for Pakistan

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Trade Organization approved a waiver yesterday allowing 75 Pakistani products duty free access to European markets for two years to help textile exports after devastating floods in 2010.

"This waiver is unprecedented. This shows the human face of the WTO. The Pakistani people have faith in the multi-lateral trade system," Shahid Bashir, Pakistan's ambassador to the international

trade body told, AFP.

Trade officials said the EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner, receiving almost 30 percent of its exports -- worth almost 3 billion euros (\$3.9 billion).


Pakistan's trade with the EU consists mainly of textiles, which account for more than 70 percent of its exports to European countries.

The products chose for the waiver would amount to around 900 million euros in

import value, accounting for about 27 percent of EU imports from Pakistan.

The WTO has not in the past offered such special trade terms to one member, but the EU requested it due to Pakistan's exceptional circumstances following the floods in the south Asian country.

Bashir said the agreement on textiles, leather goods and industrial alcohol could boost Pakistan's exports by 15 to 20 percent.



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 02/01/2012

Currency	Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.76	2.81	2.87
Switzerland	CHF	194.62	195.34	196.14
Netherlands	EUR	232.53	234.65	237.01
Sweden	SEK	25.41	26.13	26.93
Denmark	DKK	30.60	31.32	32.12
Norway	NOK	29.69	30.41	31.21
Japan	JPY	231.86	233.97	236.33

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Finance

Chrysler back in black two years after bankruptcy

CHICAGO (AFP) - Less than two years after a government-backed bankruptcy, iconic US automaker Chrysler yesterday posted its first annual profit and vowed to keep the money pouring at an even faster pace.

Chrysler's remarkable success at the hands of Italy's Fiat comes after failed marriages to German's Daimler and private equity group Cerberus and

years of painful restructuring.

Chrysler's full year net income rose to \$183 million from a \$652 million loss in 2010, thanks to fourth quarter earnings of \$225 million.

Chrysler forecast that net income would jump to around \$1.5 billion in 2012 as revenues rise to \$65 billion from \$55 billion in 2011 and \$42 billion in 2010.

Botswana diamond sales plunge 70% in second half 2011

GABORONE (AFP) - Botswana saw its diamond sales plunge by more than 70 percent in the second half of 2011 to \$160.3 million (122 million euros), Finance Minister Kenneth Matambo said yesterday.

Presenting the 2012-2013 national budget, Matambo said 2011 economic growth was expected to come in at 5.1 percent and forecast 4.4 percent growth in 2012.

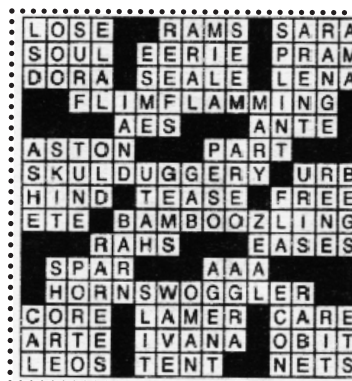
He warned that no quick improvement was in sight for the country's top export and that it could force the government to reconsider its spending plans.

"There is no guarantee that this trend will be reversed in the near future unless the situation improves in the USA and the euro area," said Matambo.

Matambo said the economy would get a boost this year from the launch of the 600-megawatt Morupule B coal-fired power project, designed to end Botswana's dependence on electricity imports.

But he warned that if the global economy experienced a double-dip recession, quick recovery in the debt-laden domestic economy could prove difficult.

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'Soul Train' creator Cornelius commits suicide



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Music impresario Don Cornelius, 75, whose groundbreaking "Soul Train" show exposed music acts like Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder to millions of TV viewers, took his own life Wednesday, Los Angeles officials said.

"The death was reported as a suicide, a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head," Los Angeles coroner's assistant Chief Ed Winter said, after police confirmed Cornelius was found at his home in the Sherman Oaks area at about 4:00 am and was later pronounced dead.

It was a tragic ending to a pioneering musical figure whose show, which launched in 1970 more than a decade before MTV, had a tremendous impact on American popular culture.

Cornelius created "Soul Train" in his native Chicago and soon moved it to Los Angeles. It quickly became es-

sential viewing for young Americans, particularly African-Americans, eager to see and hear black stars who often did not get exposure on mainstream -- and largely white -- radio or television.

By 1971 the so-called "hippest trip in America" was in national syndication. The dapper-dressed, baritone-voiced Cornelius presided over the musical variety program that showcased splashy dance moves, outrageous fashion trends and over-the-top hairstyles almost as much as its legendary musical acts.

It featured stars like James Brown, Marvin Gaye and Whitney Houston, and helped propel the careers of up-and-comers like Luther Vandross.

Several of the stars who appeared alongside Cornelius paid warm tribute to him on Wednesday, including friend and business partner Quincy Jones, himself a music icon who hailed Cornelius as "a visionary pioneer and a giant in our business."

"His contributions to television, music and our culture as a whole will never be matched," Jones said in a statement.

"Soul Train" emerged as a counterbalance to the more established music show

"American Bandstand," which while occasionally profiling black acts like rock pioneer Chuck Berry largely catered to white acts.

In a rare interview, Cornelius told the magazine TimeOut Chicago that when he turned on American radio in 1970, "I saw the general-market world, the white world."

"I felt that it was my mission to see to it that black talent had an opportunity to get national television exposure."

One of the first star acts on his show was Gladys Knight & The Pips. "He is really an unsung hero," Knight told CNN on Wednesday, adding that Cornelius took "a giant step" to compete against "American Bandstand," whose creator and host Dick Clark was already a titan in the industry.

"But he (Cornelius) was brave, and he went out and he did it. We, as artists, are so grateful to him for giving us that space."

Debra Lee, whose BET network airs the annual "Soul Train Awards," and who recalled watching the hit show every Saturday when growing up, said Cornelius also should be remembered for giving non-African-American artists their due on his show, including David Bowie and Elton John.



"It was a badge of honor for a white artist to come on 'Soul Train' because standing there next to Don Cornelius, you couldn't get any cooler than that," she said.

Celebrity gossip website TMZ reported Wednesday that when Cornelius divorced his wife in 2009, he told a Los

Angeles judge that he had "significant health issues" and wanted to "finalize this divorce before I die."

"Soul Train" aired continuously until 2006, and the show made claims in later years that it was the longest-running nationally syndicated program in television history.



Feb. 3 - Children's & Youth Queen Election -
Aruba Entertainment Center - 7 p.m.

Feb. 4 - Finals Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Joe
Laveist Ball park - 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 5 - San Nicolas Childrens Parade - 12:30

Aruba's Butterfly Farm - as fascinating as ever



Among Aruba's many repeat visitors you will find that those in the know are dedicated fans of the Butterfly Farm located between The Westin Aruba and Divi Phoenix Resorts in Palm Beach. Aruba's most unusual attraction is an absolute delight and your first visit will convert you to a butterfly fanatic as well.

A setting of tropical flowers and classical music is the perfect backdrop to observe nature's magnificent artistry in action. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with tours conducted every half hour throughout the day

- the last at 4:00 p.m. - the Butterfly Farm is educational and enlightening, as well. It is the perfect place to enjoy these brilliant hues wonders of nature. The purchase of a ticket at the beginning of your stay allows unlimited return visits until departure.

The staff kindly provides a guide to identify the various exotic species from around the world and there are at least 200 butterflies fluttering around, drinking nectar, or relaxing in the shade. The farm also imports pupae, so often you can see the butterflies breaking out of their chrysalis or perhaps the largest such creature, the Atlas Moth, fresh from its cocoon. This amazing insect lives only five days, so be on the lookout for this rare treat!

Aside from the inventory of live butterflies, the farm houses a gift shop which boasts the largest collection of butterfly souvenirs, jewelry and knick-knacks to be gathered in one place. If you are a fan of anything with butterflies, you are bound to find a beautiful memento of your visit, or a treasured gift.



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THE MORNING NEWS met eatery, Chez Mathilde, taste-testing team had a very, but has now realized her very pleasant surprise when long-time dream of welcoming and befriending patrons



Frutti di Mare Creole in Casserole

rechristened Scabeche, located in the Caribbean Palm Villas Resort. Veteran visitors will be pleased to become

in her own charming venue. Anky has completely remodeled the lovely space within the resort, which is



Steak Tika

reacquainted with Anky, who they will recognise from her years with Aruba's top gour-

just a short walk from the Palm Beach resort area, to create a delightful ambiance

and menu reflecting her great enthusiasm for fine food and quality service. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, after only one year they are receiving rave reviews under the original name, Caribbean Palm Restaurant. Sca-beche is homage to the unique regional cooking which is their specialty, native to Peru and other Latin countries, but with a distinctly Caribbean flavor.

We absolutely must rave about their signature dish, Catch of the Day Escabeche, moist and fresh; we had grouper in a singular sauce that has us ready to go back ASAP for another helping. We also sampled the Shrimp and Scallops appetizer and the Ceviche Aruban Style, as well as the Frutti di Mare en Casserole, and recommend each of them highly. Scabeche is heaven for seafood lovers, but landlubbers will also be extremely pleased with the Tenderloin Tika, a HUGE steak skewer with loads of fresh vegetables.

Aside from their extremely pleasing and affordable regular menu, each night features some distinctive specialty. Monday is Carnival, with a show, Tuesday is Italian night, including a free Caesar salad, Wednesday is All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs for only \$19.95 and Thursday is Karaoke Party night with famed island entertainer Lloyd Baptiste, which features 2 for 1 drinks with free snacks from 8 to 10 p.m.

Scabeche is a welcome addition to the Palm Beach roster of restaurants and definitely deserves discovering. Diners will love the tranquil setting, excellent and friendly service, along with a very reasonably priced menu featuring several distinctive and delectable dishes.

Closed on Fridays, they also feature 2 for 1 Happy Hours 3 times a day from noon to 1 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m., tempting you to linger over a liqueur after your dinner.



SPORTS

Golf: Asian Tour chief welcomes PGA boost

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Asian Tour chief Kyi Hla Han has welcomed moves from the US PGA Tour to step up its presence in the region, as this year's busy golf season gets under way.

The boss of Asia's main golf circuit, which returns this week in Yangon, said it would be "positive for all parties" if the PGA turns the limited-field CIMB Asia Pacific Classic in Kuala Lumpur into a ranking event.

The PGA has lagged behind the European Tour, which last year co-sanctioned eight Asian events, in its forays into the region, but is now considering an "Asian swing" with CIMB and Shanghai's HSBC Champions gaining full PGA status.

Previously, CIMB has had just a 40-man field including 10 Asian players. But Han, the Asian Tour's executive chairman, said it would make sense to turn it into a full event.

"If it's not a ranking event it kind of defeats the purpose of having a sanctioned event," he said. "It would probably be better to have an increased field," Han added.

"If the PGA Tour puts it on their ranking list I think that would be a positive for all parties."

Han said the move would

probably be discussed at the International Federation of PGA Tours meeting at the US Masters in April. If the US PGA makes it a full-field ranking event, he said the Asian Tour may do the same.

"Right now we haven't been notified. It will probably be discussed at our meeting during the US Masters. It would only be a positive," he said.

On Thursday, about 140 players will tee off in Yangon for the Myanmar Open, heralding the start of the 27-stop Asian Tour. The rival OneAsia series is due to begin in March.

Asia has risen from golfing backwater to the sport's prime growth area over the past decade, with a trickle of visiting stars becoming a flood thanks to world-standard purses and facilities, and lavish appearance fees.

But with the advent of OneAsia in 2009, and last year's introduction of mega-rich exhibition events in China, the Asian schedule suddenly looks congested.

However, Han said sponsors were continuing to back Asian golf, despite global economic problems, and he maintained there was still room to expand.

"We've got a lot more room to improve. It's very positive. Even with the challenges we've got, the good sign is the sponsors are willing to put their money into golf," he said.

"The Asian economy so far is stable. I think a lot of companies are still going to have to market their brand, and we work hard to get the right branding with our TV distribution and media distribution," Han added. "I'm sure they will put their money in with us and the big tours."

Han reserved comment on recent changes at OneAsia, which has relocated its headquarters from Singapore to Hong Kong and lost its former chief executive Ben Sellenger, who announced his resignation in November.

But he said the Asian Tour was unconcerned by the Chinese exhibition events, including the Shanghai Masters which last year offered a US\$2 million first prize, the biggest in the sport.

"These exhibition matches don't really do anything for the development of Chinese golf or golf in Asia. I think the majority of our sponsors are very pleased with having sanctioned, full-field events," he said.

NBA: Knicks welcome Anthony back with win

NEW YORK (AFP) - Carmelo Anthony returned from a two-game injury absence to score 25 points as the New York Knicks secured a convincing 113-86 NBA victory over Detroit on Tuesday.

Anthony, who had been sidelined by a sprained right ankle as well as injuries to his left wrist and right thumb, appeared energized after five days of rest.

He enjoyed his best shooting night of the lockout-shortened season, making nine-of-14 shots from the field to score the most points on the court.

The win saw the Knicks halt a three-game losing streak and notch their highest shooting percentage from the field this season with a 60 percent success rate.

Anthony admitted that the

Knicks' recent struggles had prompted him to come back as quickly as he could, despite the painful ankle injury.

"If we were winning, I would try to take my time, but right now, I want to try to push it and see what we can do," Anthony said.

"I think these four, five days I had off helped me out a lot. My thumb, my wrist calmed down. My ankle is worse than I thought it was and playing for that week on it didn't help at all."

Anthony's return, and the win over the struggling Pistons took some of the heat off New York coach Mike D'Antoni, who admitted that his team's troubles this season were disappointing.

"We had higher expectations this year, so obviously, the letdown is greater this year," D'Antoni said. "It's tough. Things we got to get through, we'll work through it... Still time. Guys are still buying in. I cannot ask any more from them."



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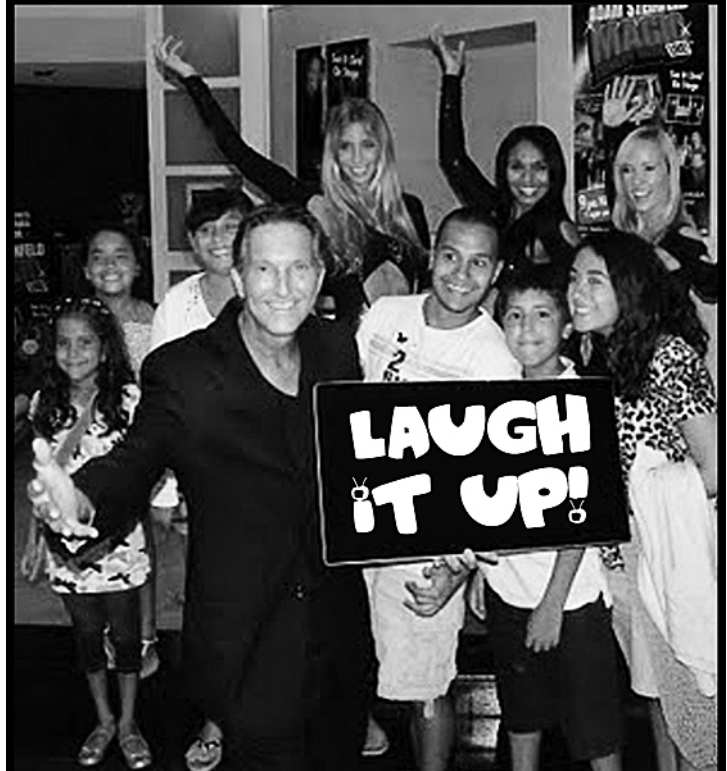
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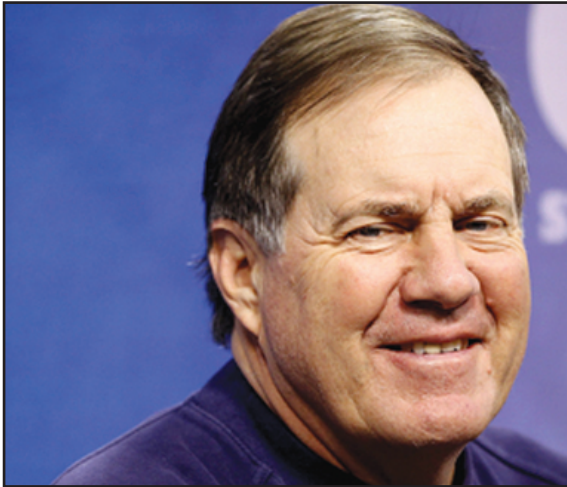
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NFL: Few secrets between ..

continued from page 16



Bill Belichick



Tom Coughlin

Coughlin learned from the exchanges as well.

"There was a certain amount of competitiveness about the positions and the interaction," Coughlin said. "More than that there was a spirit of cooperation. We helped each other and would act as each other's scout squad."

"We would take advantage during training camp of any opportunity we were given to work against each other. We worked well together and it was a very good thing for our staff because our cooperation was outstanding. Both sides benefitted from it."

Belichick admires much of

what he sees from Coughlin even as he tries to find ways to foil his plans, especially in the wake of a loss to the Giants in the 2008 Super Bowl to spoil an unbeaten season and another defeat last November.

"I respect a lot of things about Tom -- his evaluation of talent, the way he attacks teams, his consistency, his discipline, his team's toughness, their resiliency," Belichick said. "Tom is a good guy and good to be around."

Coughlin hopes to have some new tricks up his sleeve for Belichick on Sunday as well.

"I certainly do admire him," Coughlin said. "He has done an outstanding job. He's an exceptional coach. Bill's going to work very hard, as we are, at showing you something and it really isn't what you think it is. You really have to add an element of that into how you prepare."

Both were disciplines of Parcells, whose discipline and no-nonsense manner was mixed with demanding workouts and high expectations.

"I don't know who rubs off on whom," Belichick said. "That was the way Tom was as an assistant coach. He was very disciplined and very detail-oriented. He demanded a lot from his players. He was fair, but firm, like he is now."

"There's a lot of Bill Parcells in that, too. He is demanding. He expects a lot. There's a different style, but some similarities as a coach. I don't know how much one rubbed off on the other as much as it's kind of the way they are."

Coughlin said his time under Parcells taught him the value of continuity, repetition and stability.

There were very few peaks and valleys," Coughlin said. "There was a feeling of pressure. The finger was always

on the coaching staff and how they prepared their team and how the players responded."

"Ultimately, anyone who was around Parcells for any length of time learned how to win. That's the biggest thing I took away from it."

NFL: Global talent making impact

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Asked about the possibility of an NFL team based in London one day given the popularity of NFL regular season games played there, Umenyiora was in favor.

"That would be awesome," he said. "If there's a permanent team in London, I think the English people will embrace it eventually. I think it will be a great thing for the NFL."

But later this year, English fans must settle for a regular

season matchup between the Patriots and St. Louis Rams.

"I've been to London two years ago with the kids and my wife," said Patriots receiver Deion Branch. "I really liked everything. What I remember most was the freshness of the air."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft is looking forward to the trip as well.

"One of my best friends in the world lives in England. His name happens to be Sir

Elton John and he's excited that we're coming back," Kraft said. "We hope to have a lot of fun there."

New York receiver Victor Cruz and New England Aaron Hernandez are both of Puerto Rican heritage.

"It's great for the Puerto Rican community," Hernandez said. "There aren't that many Puerto Ricans in the NFL but having some in the Super Bowl is a great deal. It means a lot."

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NFL: Global talent making impact at Super Bowl

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - From a Romanian-born punter to a Jamaican-born defensive back and a German lineman plus players of Nigerian and Puerto Rican heritage, Sunday's Super Bowl 46 has a global array of talent.

Millions around the world will see American football's championship spectacle between the New York Giants and New England Patriots, some of them cheering on family members.

Patriots safety Patrick Chung expects relatives in Jamaica, where he was born, and China, thanks to his father being half-Jamaican and half-Chinese, to be cheering for him on Sunday.

"We've got full support," Chung said. "They are probably watching all of this and thinking the same thing I am, that it's all so crazy."

Patriots punter Zoltan Mesko, born in a small Romanian town near the Hungarian border, was forced to hide from army gunfire battles and lived in poverty until his father won a lottery for a

US work permit in 1997 when Mesko was 11.

Mesko, a youth soccer player, kicked a ball so high in a US gymnasium that he broke a light and was recruited as a gridiron punter. This season, he set a Patriots record by averaging 46.5 yards a punt.

Now he hopes for some support from Romanian friends watching on television.

"It's going to be a midnight, 1 a.m. kickoff there," Mesko said. "Hopefully people will get their afternoon naps in and support me because I'll be supporting them."

Asked if he was the only NFL player known in Romania, Mesko deferred to star teammate Tom Brady, saying, "There's no way people don't know Tom Brady more than me."

The Patriots also boast starting German right tackle Sebastian Vollmer, who has been sidelined with a foot injury but could return to his starting spot Sunday alongside New England guard

Brian Waters.

"Sebastian is a superbly talented player," Waters said. "He's not kind of good. He's really good. To be coming from Germany, coming out of nowhere, and he's one of the top tackles in the NFL, that's a true testament to his work ethic and how he plays this game."

Patriots safety James Ihedigbo's parents moved to America from Nigeria in 1982, the year before James was born.

Ihedigbo admires Giants rookie safety Prince Amukamara, whose mother was a Nigerian Olympian in 1984, and defensive end Osi Umenyiora, who was born in London to Nigerian parents.

"I'm definitely honored to be one of the many Nigerians in the NFL," said Ihedigbo. "They are great players. It's the athleticism, guys that are big guys that are able to play versatile positions and do more and be athletic."

"It's awesome."

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NFL: Few secrets between Super Bowl rival

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - More than 20 years after working together as assistant coaches for a Super Bowl champion, Bill Belichick and Tom Coughlin are pitted against each other as coaching rivals in Super Bowl 46.

Belichick will try to equal the record of four Super Bowl coaching triumphs when he guides the New England Patriots against Coughlin's New York Giants on Sunday at Indianapolis.

Coughlin and Belichick spent the 1998-1999 seasons

as assistant coaches for the Giants under Bill Parcells, culminating with a 1991 Super Bowl victory. Coughlin coached receivers while Belichick was defensive coordinator.

They would trade secrets on techniques each used, allowing the other to better understand how the other's players were trained to react in what Belichick called the best relationship he ever had with another assistant.

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